

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05458 101101Z

42

ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5458

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GDS

SUBJ: REMARKS OF NOTED COLUMNIST ABDI IPEKCI ON OPIUM

1. IN JULY 10 ARTICLE ENTITLED "WHAT THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAS FORGOTTEN", CHIEF EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI OF MEDIUM CIRCULATION MILLIYET ALLEGES THAT PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER DID NOT RESPOND TO OVERTURES FROM THE GOT TO DISCUSS OPIUM QUESTION AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL BEFORE TURKISH OPIUM POPPY BAN WAS LIFTED. "BEFORE THE DECISION (TO RESCIND THE BAN) WAS ANNOUNCED," WRITES IPECKI, "THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT LOOKED INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AMERICANS, AND MADE DEMARCHES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE; IT FELT THAT (PRESIDENT) NIXON'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS AN OPPORTUNITY. IF THIS OPPORTUNITY COULD NOT BE USED, THEN A REMINDER WAS MADE THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT COULD GET TOGETHER WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AT THE (JUNE 26) NATO MEETING IN BRUSSELS. THESE REMINDERS WERE NOT ANSWERED. FURTHERMORE, CONSIDERATION WAS NOT EVEN GIVEN TO A CONSULTATION AT LEAST WITH (SECRETARY) KISSINGER. KISSINGER, WHO WAS UNABLE TO SET ASIDE ANY TIME TO TALK WITH TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES IN TURKEY ON A SUBJECT CONCERNING WHICH AMERICA SHOWS THE UTMOST SENSITIVITY, FOUND PLENTY OF TIME TO WATCH A FOOTBALL MATCH IN GERMANY".

2. IPECKI STATES THAT GOT DID NOT CONSIDER ABOVE STATE OF AFFAIRS INSULTING TO TURKEY. HE COMPARES TURKISH ATTITUDE WITH US IRRITATION OVER NOT RECEIVING ADVANCE WORD OF TURK ANNOUNCEMENT

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05458 101101Z

TO RESCIND OPIUM POPPY BAN, AND CONCLUDES THAT US STATE DEPT.

SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THIS SIDE OF THE AFFAIR". (IPEKCI
ALSO REPEATS STANDARD TURK ARGUMENT THAT DECISION TO IMPOSE BAN
IN 1971 WAS UNILATERAL ONE, AND THAT NO AGREEMENT EXISTED WITH US).
SPAIN

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NNN

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